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29 December 1955

Memorandum for: The Director

Subject: Congressional Contacts.

1. We are going ahead with arrangements to contact certain key members of the Congress during the early stages of the forthcoming session. We will attempt to spare the Director from as many routine contacts as possible, but there are certain members of the House and Senate whom the Director should see personally, both to receive their own observations as a result of recent trips or other developments, and to place before certain of the leaders the legislative problems which directly affect CIA. It is assumed for these purposes that the Director will want to continue the past procedure of having weekly luncheons on Monday, to which key members of the Congress will be invited. It may also be advisable on occasion to arrange more than one meeting a week, at least in the early stages of the session.

2. The following list of Congressional members, broken down into priorities, is submitted for the Director's approval:

Priority I

a. Senator Russell. Senator Russell, in response to an invitation from the Director, has stated that he would be pleased to come over to debrief himself both to our people and to representatives of G-2 and the Air Force who have asked to sit in. It is recommended that Senator Russell be invited to lunch with the Director on Monday, January 9th, after which a debriefing will be arranged.

b. Senator Saltonstall. The Senator has returned from a world tour, in the course of which he was briefed by CIA field stations. It is recommended that the Director invite him to lunch, after which a debriefing will be arranged if the Senator is willing. Either at lunch or on another occasion, the Director should have a frank discussion with the Senator on various CIA problems with the Congress. (A separate memorandum on Senator Saltonstall's trip will be submitted to the Director.)

CRC, 3/6/2003

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c. Senator George. The Director should visit the Senator at his office. This would be largely a courtesy call, although some discussion on Joint Committee legislation would be profitable, if the opportunity arises. Senator Smith's bill on a Joint Committee has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator George is a co-sponsor of the Mansfield resolution.

d. Senator Byrd. The Director should visit the Senator at his office. Senator Byrd was briefed at CIA stations on his recent trip to Europe, and appears to have some reservations on our operation.

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e. Senator Hayden. Matt Baird and [redacted] should visit Senator Hayden in his office, and invite him to lunch with the Director. Senator Hayden will have a great deal of influence on the disposition of Joint Committee resolutions, and last year he was opposed to any such committee.

f. Senator Knowland. The Director should call Senator Knowland and invite him to lunch or offer to visit him at his office.

g. Congressmen Cannon and Taber. It will probably be preferable to visit these Congressmen individually on the Hill.

h. Congressman Mahon. The Congressman would prefer not to accept a luncheon invitation, but would probably be happy to visit the Director and other CIA officials in the morning on his way to work. We have a number of problems which could be usefully discussed with him.

✓ i. Congressman Zablocki. As the leader of the recent congressional delegation, including Congressmen Judd and Wigglesworth, which has just completed a world trip, Congressman Zablocki should be invited at an early date for lunch with the Director and a debriefing session.

In addition to the above contacts, we should also keep Congressman Vinson posted on our plans for the new building, and on our new legislation as soon as the Administration position is clear as to whether we will be permitted to introduce such legislation. We are making arrangements for General Cabell to pay his respects to Speaker Rayburn and Senator

Lyndon Johnson. Although Senator Johnson probably will not wish to leave the Hill for lunch, Speaker Rayburn may accept a renewal of a luncheon invitation extended to him during the last session.

Priority II.

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a. Congressman McCormack. Mr. [ ] is planning to visit the Congressman at an early date, and a brief visit by the Director might also be useful, if his time permits. Congressman McCormack is a strong supporter of the Agency, and is always pleased to have us call on him and discuss the general situation.

b. Senator Wiley. A courtesy call by the Director would be advisable, particularly if a similar call is made on Senator George. Senator Wiley's [ ] STAT

c. Senator Alexander Smith. Senator Smith should be visited or invited to lunch with the Director. He introduced the Joint Committee bill which has been referred to the Foreign Relations Committee. We understand that he introduced this bill as a part of his general practice to introduce bills on all Hoover Commission recommendations, however, and that he does not have any strong convictions on this issue.

d. Senator Fulbright. At some point a frank discussion of the Mansfield resolution with Senator Fulbright would be useful. He is a co-sponsor of the Mansfield resolution, but has been lukewarm on similar resolutions in past years, and has heretofore expressed a desire to know how this matter was viewed by CIA.

e. Senator Kefauver. The Senator has an outstanding invitation from the Director to come in for a debriefing. The Director should call again after the first of the year and renew the invitation. We have developed and printed a large number of pictures which the Senator took on his recent trip.

f. Senators Chavez, Stennis and Kilgore. All are members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and were given limited CIA briefings during a recent trip abroad, largely because they overlapped at

certain posts with Senator Saltonstall. The Director may wish to get Senator Saltonstall's advice as to whether we should debrief these Senators.

g. Congressman Wigglesworth. The Director has invited Congressman Wigglesworth to see him again after he has organized his notes on his recent trip.

There are a number of other Senators and Congressmen whom it will be important to contact at the appropriate time. The purpose of this memorandum is to receive the Director's approval for getting underway on the most important initial contacts.

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[Redacted]  
Legislative Counsel

CONCUR:

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Inspector General

IG:NSP?BLC

Orig. - Add

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